

**Claims**

We claim:

1. A wireless communication system, comprising:

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at least one radio at a location remote from a backplane; and

at least one communication link coupling said at least one radio to the backplane, wherein the communication link carries signals between the backplane and said at least one radio at the location remote from the backplane.

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2. The system of claim 1, wherein said at least one communication link is a fiber link connecting said at least one radio to the backplane.

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3. The system of claim 1, comprising at least one backplane card attached to the backplane, wherein the communication link is connected to the backplane card.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the backplane card is coupled with a radio card slot in the backplane.

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5. The system of claim 1, comprising at least one radio card connected to said at least one radio, wherein the communication link is connected to the radio card.

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6. The system of claim 5, comprising at least one backplane card attached to the backplane, wherein the communication link is connected to the backplane card and the radio card.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein said at least one radio card comprises a plurality of radio cards, and wherein the backplane card is connected to said plurality of radio cards.

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8. The system of claim 6, wherein said at least one card comprises a plurality of radio cards and wherein said at least one backplane card comprises a plurality of backplane

cards attached to the backplane, wherein each backplane card is connected to at least one of said plurality of radio cards via said at least one communication link.

9. The system of claim 6, comprising at least one non-remote radio, wherein said  
5 at least one non-remote radio is plugged into a first radio card slot in the backplane and said  
at least one backplane fiber card plugged into a second radio card slot in the backplane and  
connected to said at least one radio card via said at least one communication link.

10. A connection apparatus for a wireless communication system, comprising:  
10 a backplane fiber card having a backplane connector;  
a radio fiber card having a radio connector; and  
at least one fiber link connecting the backplane fiber card and the radio fiber card.

11. The connection apparatus of claim 10, wherein the backplane connector and  
15 the radio connector each have a standard configuration for connection to a backplane and a  
radio, respectively.

12. The connection apparatus of claim 10, wherein the backplane fiber card and  
the radio fiber card each comprise at least one optical transceiver connected to said at least  
20 one fiber link.

13. The connection apparatus of claim 10, wherein the backplane fiber card  
comprises a plurality of fiber links, each fiber link connected to one radio fiber card.

25 14. A method of transmitting a signal between a backplane and a remote radio,  
comprising:  
intercepting the signal in a backplane card connected to the backplane; and  
transmitting the signal through a communication link connected to the backplane card  
to the remote radio.

30 15. The method of claim 14, comprising intercepting the signal from the  
backplane card in a radio card attached to the remote radio.

16. The method of claim 14, comprising:

transmitting a second signal from the backplane to a non-remote radio connected to the backplane, wherein the remote radio and the non-remote radio are in communication with  
5 the backplane.

17. The method of claim 14, comprising:

intercepting a second signal in the backplane card;

transmitting a second signal from the backplane to a second remote radio through a  
10 second communication link connected to the backplane card.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the intercepting and transmitting steps are conducted to a plurality of remote radios.